

REMARKS

Review and reconsideration of the Office Action of June 4, 2003, is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The specification has been amended to overcome the formalities rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended. Support for the claim amendment can be found on page 6, paragraph 1, of the description and Claims 2 and 4 as originally filed.

Claim 9 has been amended to overcome the formalities objections/rejections.

No new matter has been added to either the specification or the claims.

Compared with present Claim 1, the '516 reference fails to teach: wherein the mounting and connecting base further comprises connecting channels for connecting the channels in the distributor portion with the channels in the nozzle portion, **and sealing means are provided on at least one abutment location between the mounting and connecting base and the distributor portion, such that the flow channels of the mounting and connecting base and the flow channels of the distributor portion are sealed to the ambient.**

In order to guarantee a sufficient sealing of the nozzle arrangement in accordance with the invention, even at the high pressures to which the extrudate must regularly be exposed, it is advantageous when sealing means are provided at the respective abutment locations or planes. For example, seals can be provided between the aforesaid channel extensions and the surrounding distributor and/or nozzle portion. If the sealing surfaces are displaced onto the mounting and connecting base, corresponding sealing means are provided accordingly on their sides directed

towards the respectively connecting portions or on the connecting portions themselves.

It has proven especially advantageous when sealing means are used which upon a pressure load automatically provide a larger sealing effect. The sealing action of a corresponding sealing means can increase over a large pressure range proportionally with or dependent on the pressure, which means it is not necessary to apply mechanical forces which adjust a seal to the maximum expected pressure load, since the sealing means itself automatically adjusts its sealing action to the pressure load. Liquid material, which exists in the case of a leak exerts a pressure on the geometrical shape of the seal which leads to a stronger pressing of the sealing surfaces of the seal onto the surrounding device portions so that leaks can be sealed. Ductile metals can also be used for the seals. For example, copper, tin or the like can be used herefor.

In addition, the present invention overcomes a deficiency in the prior art by providing a mounting and connecting base that accurately aligns the nozzle relative to the distributor when a nozzle pre-attached to a mounting and connecting base is mounted to the distributor as a single unit.

Figure 1 of the '083 reference, shows an intermediate body portion 14 which is disposed between an outer die body 10 and a lower outer body portion 26. Within the mentioned constructions elements, there are no connecting channels present, but only a first hollow axial conduit 92 defining a feed channel 94, which passes through the assemblies 10, 14, and 26. The reference signs 103, 111 represent sealing rings. These sealing rings are situated between the components of the die and do not have any immediate reference to the aforementioned feed channel 94. On the other hand, the flow channels of the mounting and connecting

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION NO.: 10/022,576
AMENDMENT A

ATTY DOCK: 3993.004

base and the flow channels of the distributor portion are sealed to the ambient by the inventive arrangement of the sealing means. Whereas the sealing rings of the reference are only intended to ensure sealing between the single components of the die, the sealing means defined in new Claim 1 of the present co-extrusion nozzle arrangement are in direct effective connection with the melted extrudate passed through the flow channels.

Office Action

Turning now to the Office Action, the paragraphing of the Examiner is adopted.

Paragraph 1 (Formalities-Specification)

The Examiner objects to the disclosure because:

- 1) On page 5, line 16, the term "and" should be replaced by the term "end."
- 2) On page 5, line 18, reference numeral "21" at page should be amended to read "12."

In response, Applicants have amended the specification as suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Paragraph 2 (Formalities-Drawings)

The Examiner objects to FIG. 1 as containing a reference numeral (28), which is not referred to in the specification.

In response, Applicants amended the specification to refer to numeral 28. Reference 28 refers to a bolt that attaches base 16 to parts 72 and 74 of nozzle 12. See Figure 1.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Paragraph 3 (Formalities-Claims)

The Examiner objects to Claim 9 as being improper for failing to limit the scope of Claim 1.

The position of the Examiner can be found on page 2 of the

Office Action.

In response, Applicants amended Claim 9 to overcome the rejection. Support for this amendment is found at paragraph [00021] of the specification.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Paragraphs 4-5 (Formalities-Claims)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-10 as being indefinite.

The position of the Examiner can be found on page 3 of the Office Action.

In response, Applicants amended the claims to overcome the rejection.

In addition, Applicants would like to point out to the Examiner that the distributor may include two or more extrudate channels, but that these may deliver one or more extrudates. (Paragraphs [00024], [00025]).

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Paragraphs 6-7 (Anticipation)

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-3 and 6-10 as being allegedly anticipated by European Patent 0 243 516.

The position of the Examiner can be found on pages 3-5 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

In order for a reference to anticipate a claim, the

reference must teach or suggest every element of the claim.

Compared with present Claim 1, the '516 reference fails to teach: wherein the mounting and connecting base further comprises connecting channels for connecting the channels in the distributor portion with the channels in the nozzle portion, **and sealing means are provided on at least one abutment location between the mounting and connecting base and the distributor portion, such that the flow channels of the mounting and connecting base and the flow channels of the distributor portion are sealed to the ambient.**

In order to guarantee a sufficient sealing of the nozzle arrangement in accordance with the invention, even at the high pressures to which the extrudate must regularly be exposed, it is advantageous when sealing means are provided at the respective abutment locations or planes. For example, seals can be provided between the aforesaid channel extensions and the surrounding distributor and/or nozzle portion. If the sealing surfaces are displaced onto the mounting and connecting base, corresponding sealing means are provided accordingly on their sides directed towards the respectively connecting portions or on the connecting portions themselves.

It has proven especially advantageous when sealing means are used which upon a pressure load automatically provide a larger sealing effect. The sealing action of a corresponding sealing means can increase over a large pressure range proportionally with or dependent on the pressure, which means it is not necessary to apply mechanical forces which adjust a seal to the maximum expected pressure load, since the sealing means itself automatically adjusts its sealing action to the pressure load. Liquid material, which exits in the case of a leak exerts a pressure on the geometrical shape of the seal which leads to a

stronger pressing of the sealing surfaces of the seal onto the surrounding device portions so that leaks can be sealed. Ductile metals can also be used for the seals. For example, copper, tin or the like can be used herefor.

In addition, the present invention overcomes a deficiency in the prior art by providing a mounting and connecting base that accurately aligns the nozzle relative to the distributor when a nozzle pre-attached to a mounting and connecting base is mounted to the distributor as a single unit.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Paragraphs 8-10 (Obviousness)

The Examiner rejects Claims 4 and 5 as being obvious over European Patent 0 243 516 in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,890,083 to St. Eve.

The position of the Examiner can be found on pages 5-6 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

The '516 reference was discussed above.

Figure 1 of the '083 reference, shows an intermediate body portion 14 which is disposed between an outer die body 10 and a lower outer body portion 26. Within the mentioned constructions elements, there are no connecting channels present, but only a first hollow axial conduit 92 defining a feed channel 94, which passes through the assemblies 10, 14, and 26. The reference signs 103, 111 represent sealing rings. These sealing rings are situated between the components of the die and do not have any immediate reference to the aforementioned feed channel 94. On the other hand, the flow channels of the mounting and connecting

base and the flow channels of the distributor portion are sealed to the ambient by the inventive arrangement of the sealing means. Whereas the sealing rings of the reference are only intended to ensure sealing between the single components of the die, the sealing means defined in new Claim 1 of the present co-extrusion nozzle arrangement are in direct effective connection with the melted extrudate passed through the flow channels.

Combining the references

Applicant notes that neither of the references taken alone or in combination teaches the present invention.

The Examiner must show reasons that the skilled artisan, confronted with the same problems as the inventor and with no knowledge of the claimed invention, would select the elements from the cited prior art references for combining in the manner claimed.

Using an Applicant's disclosure as a blueprint to reconstruct the claimed invention from isolated pieces of the prior art contravenes the statutory mandate of §103 that requires judging obviousness at the point in time when the invention was made.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Paragraph 11

The Examiner states that the prior art listed and made of record and not relied upon are considered pertinent to Applicants' disclosure.

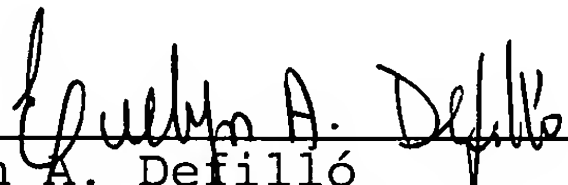
Applicants do not have any comments regarding the references.

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION NO.: 10/022,576
AMENDMENT A

ATTY DOCK: 3993.004

Favorable consideration and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. Should further issues remain prior to allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



Evelyn A. Defillo
Registration No. 45,630

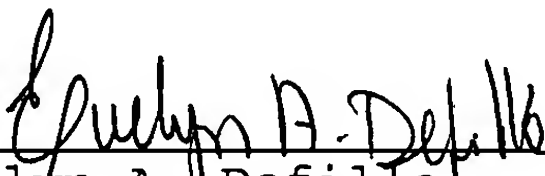
PENDORF & CUTLIFF
5111 Memorial Highway
Tampa, FL 33634-7356
(813) 886-6085

Date: **December 22, 2003**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AND AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE

I hereby certify that the foregoing AMENDMENT A for U.S. Application No. 10/022,576 filed December 17, 2001, were deposited in first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, Attn: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450, on **December 22, 2003**.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0877.



Evelyn A. Defillo